

EXHIBIT E

**Summary of the Environmental/Exclusion and Avoidance
Areas Analysis Completed for Reroute Locations
Dakota Access Pipeline Project
North Dakota PSC**

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Dakota Access, LLC has completed environmental surveys for the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline Project (Project) across affected tracts. The environmental survey consisted of land use assessment, a wetland and waterbody delineation, threatened and endangered species assessment, and cultural resources assessment (See the attached Cultural Survey Summary). This document provides a summary of the environmental survey methodology completed along the Project route and datasets utilized to complete the PSC reroute analysis of exclusion and avoidance areas.

The attached tables correspond to the environmental analysis and evaluation of exclusion and avoidance areas completed for each reroute location as described below.

Environmental Survey Methodology

Biologists conducted the environmental survey within a defined environmental survey area (400-foot corridor centered on the pipeline). The following provides a brief description of the methods utilized to complete the environmental survey.

Land Use Assessment

Vegetation community types occurring along the Project route were identified, described, and delineated based on data obtained during field surveys and review of aerial photography. During field surveys, vegetation communities were described as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) wetland delineations and classification of land uses. To be able to compare the original filed route with the reroutes, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Land Cover database was utilized to determine the land use for the reroute environmental analysis.

Wetland and Waterbody Delineation

Biologists conducted a wetland and waterbody delineation to identify and record physical features that may be considered “waters of the United States,” as defined by the USACE. “Waters of the United States” include most wetlands, rivers, creeks, streams, lakes, and tributaries. The delineation was conducted in accordance with the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Great Plains* (USACE, 2010) and the routine determination guidelines provided in the *USACE Wetland Delineation Manual* (Technical Report Y-87-1). The field delineated wetland and waterbody data was utilized in the environmental analysis and is included in the mapping exhibits.

Threatened and Endangered Species Assessment

Biologists conducted a threatened and endangered (T&E) species assessment to determine the presence or absence of federally listed threatened and endangered species and potential suitable habitat within the environmental survey area.

Exclusion and Avoidance Areas

Exclusion and avoidance areas [North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 69-06-08-01 (1 and 3)] were included in the analysis (see attached tables) for the site suitability evaluation process; information on how data was gathered for these areas is described below:

Prime Farmland

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) SSURGO database was utilized to determine which soil types would be crossed at the reroute location. Once the soil types crossed were identified, the NRCS Web Soil Survey was utilized to determine if any of the soil types within the County were considered prime farmland.

Irrigated Lands

Google Earth aerial imagery was reviewed at each reroute location. Acreages within the Project footprint were calculated in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) if irrigated lands were identified.

Geologically Unstable Areas

The U.S. Geological Survey Landslide Susceptibility national dataset was utilized to determine landslide susceptibility of the reroute locations.

Woodlands and Wetlands

For woodlands, forested land use types identified by the USGS National Land Cover database were utilized.

For wetlands, as described above under Environmental Survey Methodology, field delineated wetlands were utilized in this analysis.

100-Year Floodplain

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100 Year Flood Zones national dataset was utilized to determine if the reroute locations were located within the 100-year flood zone. Many of the reroute locations were in areas that did not have FEMA floodplain data available.

Historic Resources or Landmarks

See the attached Cultural Survey Summary.

National, State or County Exclusion Areas

Publically available datasets were utilized to evaluate national, state, or county exclusion areas; in addition, any of these potential exclusion areas would have been identified during the Project title vetting process.

T&E/Rare Species Critical Habitat

Potential T&E habitat data was collected in the field, as described above under Environmental Survey Methodology.

City Limits or Military Installation

Publically available datasets were utilized to evaluate national, state, or county exclusion areas; in addition, any of these potential exclusion areas would have been identified during the Project title vetting process.

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